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ABSTRACT

This first report of the Desegregation Monitoring and Advisory Committee reviews school regulatory policies resulting from the implementation of court ordered desegregation in the St. Louis, Missouri public schools. These policies address these issues: (1) the safety and security of school children: (2) the transportation of children: (3) the assignment of children: and (4) the assignment of teachers. A discussion of the responsibilities of monitors and other school security personnel, a description of bus routes and schedules, and student enrollment data are included in the report. (JCD)

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ED210344

DESEGREGATION MONITORING AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Report No. I

Submitted By

Edward T. Foote, Chairman

August 29, 1980

in the cause of
Craton Liddell, et al., Plaintiffs
vs
The Board of Education of the City of
St. Louis, Missouri, et al., Defendants

Federal District Court
Eastern District of Missouri
Cause No. 72-100-C (C)

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INTRODUCTION

This first report of the Desegregation Monitoring and Advisory Committee, filed by the Chairman the Friday before the opening of school, is brief. It touches only the highlights of four threshold subjects of concern:

1. Safety and security of the children.
2. Transportation of the children.
3. Assignment of the children.
4. Assignment of teachers.

The Committee has met throughout the summer as implementation in these areas, and others, progressed. We have established an office, hired two full time staff members, retained the services of consultants, approved a budget and arranged finances for our first year of operation, among other activities, all of which will be reported fully later.

Members of the Desegregation Committee, like others involved in this case, are ultimately concerned with education, the best possible, provided to all children fairly under the Court's order, the law and the Constitution. Since the Court formed the Committee on June 27, 1980, however, we have focused especially on these four broad categories of implementation on the theory: first things first; before teachers can teach and children can learn in a school, they must get there - safely.

School officials have presented us with a great deal of information, orally and in writing. Much of what follows is based on that information. Since school has not yet begun, most of the information is not independently verifiable. Without dispute, however, school and other public officials have worked extremely hard to implement the Court's order. They have accomplished a lot. Plans are impressive. Their execution, although not without some difficulties and delays, appears sufficiently on schedule to allow an orderly, safe opening of schools September 3, 1980.

The Chairman will file a more comprehensive report on September 19, as the Court has directed.

Safety and Security of the Children

School officials, representatives of the Police Department and others have been meeting throughout the summer to plan for the safety of the children on opening day and beyond. The Committee has received several reports and extensive information on these plans.

The Police Department is fully briefed on all aspects of the plan. Col. William Brown, Assistant Chief of Police, is coordinating police planning. Sgt. Thomas Rooks, Commander of the Public Affairs Division of the Police Department, has acted throughout the summer as liason with school officials. Sgt. Rooks has met with our Committee and many other interested groups. He reports that the Police Department has plans for all anticipated contingencies, but he emphasizes that preventative measures are a top priority of the department.

Sgt. Rooks has assured the public repeatedly that the Department has no information of planned violence or other disruptions. The Police Department has cancelled all leaves and vacations planned during the early part of the school year.

Every general high school has assigned to it a liason police officer from the Juvenile Division. That officer will be available to attend meetings with parents, teachers, principal and staff, visit with students to keep small incidents from escalating, and generally to be a supporting and stabilizing presence.

The School Board has hired 180 monitors to ride the buses, one for each bus. These monitors will serve throughout the school year. Each monitor will remain on the same bus throughout all three bus trips in the morning, and again in the afternoon.

The monitors will receive a computer-prepared manifest list of the students assigned to each bus. They will cross-check the names on that list with the children actually riding the bus and report any discrepancies to the principal each day. During the first few days of school, the children whose names do not appear on the list will nevertheless be allowed to ride. Monitors will fill out information cards for such students which will be given to the principal for modification of the computerized system of recordkeeping. Monitors will assist in preserving order, as may be necessary.

Monitors have had two days of training to learn their responsibilities.

Each bus will be equipped with a two-way radio for communication with security headquarters at the terminals. Twenty-nine armed, roving security guards will travel the bus routes to be available for mobilization at a trouble point, if necessary. These security guards will be in constant contact with police officials.

Six security guards will be stationed at each regular high school, and at least one security guard will be stationed at smaller and magnet high schools. These guards will not be armed.

The school system radio station, KSLH, will expand its broadcasting hours to 5:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. to keep the community informed.

Transportation of the Children

The school system is planning to transport by bus 14,500 students. It has leased 180 buses, and 20 additional buses are available, if needed.

These buses will travel 465 routes each day. These routes are designed around a three-tier transportation system keyed to the three following school starting and school dismissal times:

7:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

All regular and most alternative and magnet high schools

Middle schools in Area III

Some magnet elementary schools

8:00 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

All K - 5 and three K - 8 elementary schools

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Most magnet elementary schools

Middle schools in Areas I and II

All students who are to be transported for any reason should have received a card which identifies their assigned school, route, pickup time, pickup point, and a telephone number to call in case of problems. For children in grades K - 5, buses are identified by animal pictures, for easy recognition, and their cards show the appropriate animal.

This same information, for each child, goes to:

All bus drivers

All bus monitors

Principals for distribution within the school

The Police Department

The School Security Offices and other Board of Education Offices

The Straight Story Line

All students and parents, plus these officials therefore, should have this specific information about each child, by name. If there is any discrepancy, the officials are instructed to find out why and correct it.

The bus routes and pickup points can be modified as experience may require. Parents with problems should speak with the principal of their children's school to recommend changes, or if problems remain, call the School Transportation Office.

Although transportation is to be provided only for children living more than one mile from school, exceptions for barriers or hazardous conditions are being made. Between now and the start of school, including during the weekend, school offices plan to respond to every

possible recommendation for changing pickup points, and notify children by telephone, as may be appropriate.

Assignment of the Children

School officials project the 1980-81 enrollment to be 63,012 students, assuming normal attrition.

As of this writing, all potential students known to school officials are assigned to a school.

Predicted racial composition of the student body remains as originally predicted by school officials: 76% black, 24% white. The Chairman will submit to the Court as soon as available actual enrollment figures, by race.

Here is a summary of magnet school enrollments, excluding 160 students recently assigned who are now being notified:

	Total	% White	% Black	Target
Center for Business, Management and Finance	200	50%	50%	500
Academy of Math and Science	347	41%	59%	400
Visual and Performing Arts High School	580	50%	50%	600
Health Careers High School	40	50%	50%	200
Academic and Athletic Academy	52	50%	50%	200
Ames CERA	375	41%	59%	425
Classical Junior Academy	526	63%	37%	600
Montessori	46	50%	50%	250
Madison Action Learning	252	50%	50%	392
Visual and Performing Arts Center	521	47%	53%	560
Stix ILC	434	45%	55%	425
Mallinckrodt ABI	333	43%	57%	325

	Total	% White	% Black	Target
Waring ABI	312	23%	77%	364
Wade IGE	433	49%	51%	425
Wilkinson FLES	242	50%	50%	250
TOTALS	4697	48%	52%	5856

Please note that several of the magnet programs are fully subscribed, and several more of the 15 magnet schools still have some openings, especially those newly established. All magnet schools will open next week, regardless of enrollment, we are assured. School officials inform us that students who have applied to a magnet school that is full are being advised of other magnet school openings.

The recruitment, counseling and information services have been widely used this summer. Counseling has been available at the Recruitment Counseling Center and area offices. The Straight Story Line has handled approximately 10,000 telephone calls.

Assignment of Teachers

All 3,940 teachers in the system qualified for positions available are now assigned. For 65 elementary teachers in the system's pool there are no openings for which they are qualified.

As recently as our last meeting on Wednesday, August 28, however, thirty-five schools were short a total of 81 teachers, and related staff, such as counselors. Particular shortages were in physics, math and industrial arts.

Some of these shortages are normal, due to the scarcity of certain certificated specialists. Others have been caused, or intensified, by the reassignment of teachers under the Court order.

As of this writing, nevertheless, only 62 teaching positions remain to be filled, and school officials intend to work throughout the Labor Day weekend to hire teachers from new applicants, or, if necessary at least temporarily, to fill in with substitute teachers.

School officials have assured the Committee that the teachers necessary to begin school next week will be there.

Monitoring During the First Few Days of School

During the first few days of school, members of this Committee, assisted by volunteers, will be out in the schools to observe first hand. We are grateful to the Interfaith Coalition for encouraging members of the clergy to visit schools.

Each school in the system is the monitoring responsibility of a specific member of the Committee. Committee members will visit personally all of the high schools and middle schools possible during the first few days of school, and coordinate reports from representatives in other schools.

Recognizing that the first few days of any school year are hectic at best, even without a court order, we will not divert any attention or energy from the school officials and others directly responsible for the children. Rather, we will observe very generally, seeking

only preliminary information on implementation, safety, transportation, and student and teacher assignments.

We will help in any way we can.